

Non-Hermitian d -dimensional Hamiltonians with position dependent mass and their η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators

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Abstract

A class of non-Hermitian d -dimensional Hamiltonians with position dependent mass and their η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators is presented. Illustrative examples are given in 1D, 2D, and 3D for different position dependent mass settings.

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1 Introduction

The proposal of the non-Hermitian \mathcal{PT} -symmetric Hamiltonians by Bender and Boettcher in [1] has relaxed the Hermiticity of a Hamiltonian as a necessary condition for the reality of the spectrum [1-7]. In the \mathcal{PT} -symmetric setting, the hermiticity assumption $H = H^\dagger$ is replaced by the mere \mathcal{PT} -symmetric one $\mathcal{P}TH(\mathcal{PT})^{-1} = \mathcal{P}TH\mathcal{PT} = H$, where \mathcal{P} denotes the parity ($\mathcal{P}x\mathcal{P} = -x$) and the anti-linear operator \mathcal{T} mimics the time reflection ($\mathcal{T}i\mathcal{T} = -i$). Intensive attention was paid to the potentials $V(x)$ which are analytic on the full axis $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ in one-dimension (1D).

However, in the transition to more dimensions with singularities manifested by, say, the central repulsive/attractive d -dimensional core, $\ell_d(\ell_d + 1)/r^2$ with $r \in (0, \infty)$, there still exist models unfortunate in methodical considerations. Nevertheless, a pioneering \mathcal{PT} -symmetric model with physically acceptable impact has been the Buslaev and Grecchi [2] quartic anharmonic oscillator, where a simple constant downward shift of the radial coordinate (i.e., $r \rightarrow x - ic$; $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ and $\text{Im } r = -c < 0$) is employed (cf., e.g., Znojil and Lévai [3] for illustrative examples).

In a broader class (where \mathcal{PT} -symmetric Hamiltonians constitute a subclass among others) of non-Hermitian pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonians [8-14] (a generalization of \mathcal{PT} -symmetry, therefore), it is concreted that the eigenvalues of a pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonian H are either real or come in complex-conjugate pairs. In this case, a Hamiltonian H is pseudo-Hermitian if it obeys the similarity transformation:

$$\eta H \eta^{-1} = H^\dagger$$

Where η is a Hermitian (and so is ηH) invertible linear operator and $(^\dagger)$ denotes the adjoint. However, the reality of the spectrum is secured if the pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonian is an η -pseudo-Hermitian with respect to

$$\eta = O^\dagger O \quad (1)$$

for some linear invertible operator $O : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ (where \mathcal{H} is the Hilbert space of the quantum system with a Hamiltonian H) and satisfies the intertwining relation (cf., e.g., [12,14] and references therein)

$$\eta H = H^\dagger \eta. \quad (2)$$

In a recent study [14], we have presented a class of spherically symmetric non-Hermitian Hamiltonians and their η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators. Therein, a generalization beyond the nodeless 1D states is proposed and illustrative examples are presented, including an exactly solvable non-Hermitian η -pseudo-Hermitian Morse model.

On the other hand, a position-dependent effective mass, $M(r) = m_o m(r)$, associated with a quantum mechanical particle constitutes a useful model for the study of many physical problems [15-28]. They are used, for example, in the energy density many-body problem [15], in the determination of the electronic properties of semiconductors [16] and quantum dots [17], in quantum liquids [18], in ^3He cluster [19], etc.

In this work, we present (in section 2) a d -dimensional recipe for η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators for a class of non-Hermitian Hamiltonians with position-dependent masses, $M(r) = m_o m(r)$. An immediate recovery of our generalized η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators for Hamiltonians with radial symmetry [14] is obvious through the substitution $m(r) = 1$. Our illustrative examples are given in section 3. Section 4 is devoted for our concluding remarks.

2 Non-Hermitian d -dimensional Hamiltonians with position dependent mass and their η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators

Following the symmetry ordering recipe of the momentum and position-dependent effective mass, $M(\vec{r}) = m_o m(\vec{r})$, a Schrödinger Hamiltonian with a complex potential field $V(\vec{r}) + iW(\vec{r})$ would read

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \left(\vec{p} \frac{1}{M(\vec{r})} \right) \cdot \vec{p} + V(\vec{r}) = -\frac{\hbar}{2m_o} \left(\vec{\nabla} \frac{1}{m(\vec{r})} \right) \cdot \vec{\nabla} + V(\vec{r}) + iW(\vec{r}). \quad (3)$$

Using the atomic units ($\hbar = m_o = 1$), and assuming the d -dimensional spherical symmetric recipe (cf, e.g., Mustafa and Znojil in [6]), with

$$\Psi(\vec{r}) = r^{-(d-1)/2} R_{n_r, \ell_d}(r) Y_{\ell_d, m_d}(\theta, \varphi), \quad (4)$$

Hamiltonian (3) would result in the following d -dimensional non-Hermitian Hamiltonian with a position-dependent mass $M(r) = m_o m(r)$ (in $\hbar = m_o = 1$ units)

$$H = -\frac{1}{2m(r)} \partial_r^2 + \frac{\ell_d(\ell_d + 1)}{2m(r)r^2} - \frac{m'(r)}{2m(r)^2} \left(\frac{d-1}{2r} - \partial_r \right) + V(r) + iW(r). \quad (5)$$

Where $\ell_d = \ell + (d-3)/2$ for $d \geq 2$, ℓ is the regular angular momentum quantum number, $n_r = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ is the radial quantum number, and $m'(r) = dm(r)/dr$. Moreover, the $d=1$ can be obtained through $\ell_d = -1$ and $\ell_d = 0$ for even and odd parity, $\mathcal{P} = (-1)^{\ell_d+1}$, respectively.

Then H has a real spectrum if and only if there is an invertible linear operator $O : \mathcal{H} \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}$ such that H is η -pseudo-Hermitian with the linear invertible operator

$$O = \mu(r) \partial_r + Z(r) \implies O^\dagger = -\mu(r) \partial_r - \mu'(r) + Z^*(r) \quad (6)$$

where

$$Z(r) = F(r) + iG(r);$$

$$F(r) = \left[-\frac{(\ell_d + 1)}{r} + f(r) \right] \mu(r), \quad G(r) = g(r) \mu(r) \quad (7)$$

and $\mu(r) = \sqrt{1/2m(r)}$, $f(r)$, $g(r)$ are real-valued functions and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty)$. Equation (1), in turn, implies

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &= -\mu(r)^2 \partial_r^2 - [2\mu(r) \mu'(r) + 2i\mu(r) G(r)] \partial_r \\ &\quad - [\mu(r) Z'(r) + \mu'(r) Z(r) - F(r)^2 - G(r)^2], \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where primes denote derivatives with respect to r . Herein, it should be noted that the operators O and O^\dagger are two intertwining operators and the Hermitian operator η only plays the role of a certain auxiliary transformation of the dual Hilbert space and leads to the intertwining relation (2) (cf, e.g., [12]). Hence, considering relation (2) along with the eigenvalue equation for the Hamiltonian, $H|E_i\rangle = E_i|E_i\rangle$, and its adjoint, $H^\dagger|E_i\rangle = E_i^*|E_i\rangle$, one can show that any two eigenvectors of H satisfy

$$\langle E_i | H^\dagger \eta - \eta H | E_j \rangle = 0 \implies (E_i^* - E_j) \langle \langle E_i | E_j \rangle \rangle_\eta = 0. \quad (9)$$

Which implies that if $E_i^* \neq E_j$ then $\langle \langle E_i | E_j \rangle \rangle_\eta = 0$. Therefore, the η -orthogonality of the eigenvectors suggests that if ψ is an eigenvector (of eigenvalue $E = E_1 + iE_2$, $\forall E_1, E_2 \in \mathbb{R}$) related to H then

$$\eta\psi = 0 \implies O^\dagger O\psi = 0 \implies O\psi = 0, \quad (10)$$

and

$$\frac{Z(r)}{\mu(r)} = -\frac{\psi'(r)}{\psi(r)} = -\partial_r \ln \psi(r) \implies \psi(r) = \exp\left(-\int^r \frac{Z(z)}{\mu(z)} dz\right). \quad (11)$$

The intertwining relation (2) would lead to

$$W(r) = -2\mu(r) G'(r) \quad (12)$$

$$V(r) = F(r)^2 - G(r)^2 - \mu'(r) F(r) - \mu(r) F'(r) + \beta \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} F(r)^2 - \mu'(r) F(r) - \mu(r) F'(r) &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\mu(r)^2 G''(r)}{G(r)} - \mu(r) \mu''(r) \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{\mu(r)^2}{4G(r)^2} \left[\left(\frac{G(r)}{\mu(r)} \right)' \right]^2 + \frac{\alpha}{4G(r)^2} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ are integration constant.

On the other hand, with $E = E_1 + iE_2$, H in (5), and $\psi(r)$ in (11) the eigenvalue problem $H\psi(r) = E\psi(r)$ implies

$$\beta = E_1 \quad (15)$$

$$F(r) = \frac{\mu'(r) G(r) - \mu(r) G'(r) - E_2}{2G(r)} \quad (16)$$

and

$$\alpha = E_2^2 \quad (17)$$

Obviously, one would accept $\mathbb{R} \ni \alpha \geq 0 \implies \mathbb{R} \ni E_2 = \pm\sqrt{\alpha}$, and negate $\alpha < 0 \implies E_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ since $\mathbb{R} \ni E_2 \notin \mathbb{C}$, a requirement of pseudo-Hermiticity mentioned early on. Yet $E_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ contradicts with the real/imaginary descendants, (12) to (17). However, the reality of the spectrum is secured by our η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators. This in turn acquires $\alpha = 0$ in the forthcoming developments.

The Hamiltonian in (5) may now be recast as

$$H = -\frac{1}{2m(r)} \partial_r^2 + \frac{m'(r)}{2m(r)^2} \partial_r + \tilde{V}(r) + iW(r) \quad (18)$$

where

$$\tilde{V}(r) = \frac{\ell_d(\ell_d + 1)}{2m(r)r^2} - \frac{m'(r)}{2m(r)^2} \left(\frac{d-1}{2r} \right) + V(r). \quad (19)$$

We may now summarize our results in terms of our η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators $g(r)$ and $f(r)$ as

$$W(r) = -2\mu(r) [g(r) \mu(r)]' \quad (20)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{V}(r) = & \frac{\ell_d(\ell_d+1)}{2m(r)r^2} + \frac{2\mu(r)\mu'(r)[\ell_d+1]}{r} + \mu(r)^2[f(r)^2 - g(r)^2] \\ & - \frac{2(\ell_d+1)}{r}f(r)\mu(r)^2 - 2\mu'(r)\mu(r)f(r) - \mu(r)^2f'(r) + \beta\end{aligned}\quad (21)$$

$$g(r) = r^{2(\ell_d+1)} \exp\left(-2 \int^r f(z) dz\right) \quad (22)$$

and

$$\psi(r) = r^{\ell_d+1} \exp\left(-\int^r [f(z) + ig(z)] dz\right) \quad (23)$$

Hence, $f(r)$ and/or $g(r)$ are our generating function(s) for the η -pseudo-Hermiticity of the class of non-Hermitian Hamiltonians in (5) with real spectra and $\psi(r)$ in (25) as an eigenfunction (not necessarily normalizable). Nevertheless, it should be reported here that our results cover the 1D Fityo's ones [13] through the substitutions $\ell_d = -1$, $m(r) = 1/2$, and $r \in (0, \infty) \rightarrow x \in (-\infty, \infty)$. Moreover, they also collapse into our recent results on η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators in [14] by the substitutions $\ell_d = \ell$, and $m(r) = 1/2$ (where we considered constant mass settings).

3 Illustrative examples

In this section, we construct η -pseudo-Hermiticity of some non-Hermitian Hamiltonians with position-dependent mass using the above mentioned procedure through the following illustrative examples:

Example 1: For a quantum particle endowed with a position-dependent mass $m(r) = r^2/2$ and with the generating function $f(r) = r$ we consider the following cases:

A) For $d = 3$, $\ell = 0$, and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty)$, one finds

$$g(r) = r^2 e^{-r^2} \quad (24)$$

$$\tilde{V}(r) = -\frac{1}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^4} - r^2 e^{-2r^2} + 1 + \beta \quad (25)$$

$$W(r) = -\frac{2}{r} e^{-r^2} + 4r e^{-r^2} \quad (26)$$

$$\psi(r) = \left(\frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}}\right)^{1/2} r \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{2} - i\left(\frac{-r}{2} e^{-r^2} + \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{4} \operatorname{erf}(r)\right)\right) \quad (27)$$

B) For $d = 3, \ell = 1$, and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty)$:

$$g(r) = r^4 e^{-r^2} \quad (28)$$

$$\tilde{V}(r) = -\frac{3}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^4} - r^6 e^{-2r^2} + 1 + \beta \quad (29)$$

$$W(r) = 2r (-3 + 2r^2) e^{-r^2} \quad (30)$$

$$\psi(r) = \left(\frac{8}{3\sqrt{\pi}} \right)^{1/2} r^2 e^{-r^2/2} \exp \left(-i \left(-\frac{r^3}{2} e^{-r^2} - \frac{3r}{4} e^{-r^2} + \frac{3\sqrt{\pi}}{8} \operatorname{erf}(r) \right) \right) \quad (31)$$

C) For $d = 2, \ell = 0$ and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \ni \rho \in (0, \infty)$:

$$g(\rho) = \rho e^{(-\rho^2)} \quad (32)$$

$$\tilde{V}(\rho) = -\frac{5}{4} \frac{1}{\rho^4} - e^{-2\rho^2} + 1 + \beta \quad (33)$$

$$W(\rho) = 4e^{-\rho^2} \quad (34)$$

$$\psi(r) = \sqrt{2}\sqrt{\rho} \exp \left(-\frac{\rho^2}{2} - i \left(\frac{\rho}{2} e^{-\rho^2} \right) \right) \quad (35)$$

D) For $d = 1, \ell = 0$ and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \ni x \in (-\infty, \infty)$:

$$g(x) = e^{(-x^2)} \quad (36)$$

$$\tilde{V}(x) = \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{e^{-2x^2}}{x^2} + 1 + \beta \quad (37)$$

$$W(x) = 4 \frac{e^{-x^2}}{x} + \frac{2e^{-x^2}}{x^3} \quad (38)$$

$$\psi(x) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left(-\frac{x^2}{2} - i \left(\frac{x}{2} \sqrt{\pi} \operatorname{erf}(x) \right) \right) \quad (39)$$

Example 2: For a quantum particle endowed with a position-dependent mass $m(r) = 1/[2 \cosh^2(r)]$ and with the generating function $f(r) = \tanh(r)/2$, we consider the following cases:

i) For $d = 1, \ell = 0$ and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \ni x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ one gets

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{\cosh(x)} \quad (40)$$

$$\tilde{V}(x) = -\frac{3 \cosh^2(x)}{4} - \frac{3}{4} + \beta \quad (41)$$

$$W(x) = 0 \quad (42)$$

$$\psi(r) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\cosh(x)}} \exp(-2i \tanh^{-1}(e^x)) \quad (43)$$

ii) For $d = 2, \ell = 0$ and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \ni \rho \in (0, \infty)$:

$$g(\rho) = \frac{\rho}{\cosh(\rho)} \quad (44)$$

$$\tilde{V}(\rho) = -\rho^2 - \frac{\cosh^2(\rho)}{4\rho^2} - \frac{3}{4} \cosh^2(\rho) + \frac{\cosh(\rho) \sinh(\rho)}{2\rho} + \frac{1}{4} + \beta \quad (45)$$

$$W(\rho) = -2 \cosh(\rho) \quad (46)$$

$$\psi(\rho) = (2/\sqrt{\pi})^{1/2} \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{\cosh(\rho)}} \exp\left(-i \int^\rho \frac{z}{\cosh(z)} dz\right) \quad (47)$$

iii) For $d = 3, \ell = 0$ and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty)$:

$$g(r) = \frac{r^2}{\cosh(r)} \quad (48)$$

$$\tilde{V}(r) = -r^4 - \frac{3}{4} \cosh^2(r) + \frac{\cosh(r) \sinh(r)}{r} + \frac{1}{4} + \beta \quad (49)$$

$$W(r) = -4 \cosh(r) \quad (50)$$

$$\psi(r) = (0.5079) \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{\cosh(r)}} \exp\left(-i \int^r \frac{z^2}{\cosh(z)} dz\right) \quad (51)$$

iv) For $d = 3, \ell = 2$ and $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty)$:

$$g(r) = \frac{r^6}{\cosh(r)} \quad (52)$$

$$\tilde{V}(r) = -r^{12} - \frac{3}{4} \cosh^2(r) + \frac{3 \sinh(2r)}{2r} + \frac{6 \cosh^2(r)}{r^2} + \frac{1}{4} + \beta \quad (53)$$

$$W(r) = -12r^5 \cosh(r) \quad (54)$$

$$\psi(r) = (0.02636) r^3 \sqrt{\frac{1}{\cosh(r)}} \exp\left(-i \int^r \frac{z^6}{\cosh(z)} dz\right) \quad (55)$$

4 Concluding Remarks

In this paper a class of non-Hermitian d -dimensional Hamiltonians for particles endowed with position-dependent mass and their η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators is introduced. Our illustrative examples include the 1D, 2D, and 3D Hamiltonians at different position-dependent mass settings. The results are presented in such a way that they reproduce our generalized η -pseudo-Hermiticity generators reported in [14] for node-less states with $m(r) = 1$ and $\ell_d = \ell$. The 1D Fityo's [13] results are also reproducible through the substitutions $\ell_d = -1$, $m(r) = 1$, and $r \in (0, \infty) \rightarrow x \in (-\infty, \infty)$. It should be noted, moreover, that example 2-i, with the imaginary part of the effective potential $W(x) = 0$, documents that Hermiticity is a possible by-product of η -pseudo-Hermiticity.

It is anticipated that with some luck one would be able to obtain some position-dependent mass non-Hermitian η -pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonians that are exactly solvable. However, this issue already lies beyond our current methodical proposal. Moreover, a point canonical transformation could be invested in the process to serve for exact solvability, an issue we shall deal with in the near future.

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